

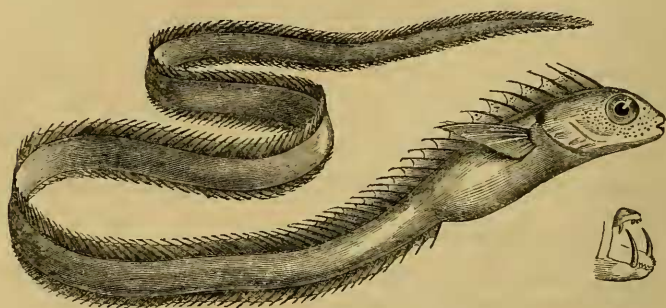
4. ON NEMOPHIS, A NEW GENUS OF RIBBAND-SHAPED FISHES.
By DR. J. KAUP.

In the collection at the Museum of Natural History in Paris I found, some years ago, when I was describing the order of Eels, this interesting genus, in which the form and function of the canine teeth are extremely remarkable.

Two specimens of this rare fish were received at the Museum, from MM. Lesson and Garnot, without any note : as they were obtained in the expedition of M. Duperrey, I presume they were captured in the South Sea.

One of the specimens being in a half-spoiled condition, I was enabled, but in this specimen only, to observe the paradoxical arrangement and formation of the canine teeth.

After the smallness of the mouth, no one would have expected to find at the end of the small incisors such large slightly-curved canine teeth in the lower jaw. These canine teeth pass through a canal in the flesh round the eye, and have an opening near the eye. These teeth, which cannot be used as true canine teeth on account of the smallness of the mouth, have certainly only the function of fixing and giving the lower jaw a certain direction.



I call this paradoxical form

NEMOPHIS.

Without ventral fins. Mouth small ; upper and lower jaw with minute incisors. Small canine teeth in the upper jaw, longer and curved ones in the lower jaw, which are placed, when the mouth is closed, in a canal going round the eyes and opened on the surface near the eyes. Eyes large. Cavity of the gills with a small round opening placed very high. The dorsal fin commences near the eyes, and is connected with the caudal and anal as in the Eels. Pectoral fin developed. Anus at the end of the first eighth of the total length.

NEMOPHIS LESSONI, Kp.

It has a length of 255 mm. or 9 Par. inches. Colour silver-white, with black points on the head and end of the tail. Dorsal and anal fins blackish.



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